



Quick Start Guide

Welcome to the Pit Bull Guitars Community.

Now that you have received your kit, you will be wondering "how do I put this thing together?" This Quick Start Guide will get you headed in the right direction.

First thing to know, these guitar kits are not "Ikea Guitars" that you simply paint and assemble; they are the raw product from the same factory that produces guitars for some of the world's best known brands. It is up to YOU to get the absolute best out of the kit you have received.

Yes, there may be the odd "ding" or glue spot you have to deal with, but these should just sand out. You may even find small cracks or other imperfections, which can be filled with no effect on the guitar's tone. Any large cracks, especially at joins, should be reported immediately, so we can replace your kit.

Instructions

With over 70 different models available, we are unable to supply an Instruction Manual for every kit. So, all Instructions for completing your guitar are on our website (www.PitBullGuitars.com). We have instructional videos on most of the processes involved and, where there is no video, you will find detailed instructions posted on our Community Forum.

Before you make a start on your kit, get along to www.pitbullguitars.com, register on our Community Forum (look for "Community" on our Home Page) and then start a *New Topic* in the [My Build Diary](#) thread to document the progress of your build.

Professional and/or qualified help from our forum members and luthiers is far quicker and more precise when they can see how you are progressing should you get stuck and need help. Many a mistake has been picked up and corrected by our eagle-eyed Forumites before it's become a biggie!

Our Community Forum is an excellent resource for every part of your build too. Make sure you check out the thread entitled [How to build your Pit Bull Electric Guitar](#) and, as a final touch, introduce yourself on the [Welcome](#) thread so we can make you feel immediately welcome.

www.PitBullGuitars.com

Ok, let's get started!

If you keep the following in mind from the start you will be less likely to encounter issues that will delay you finishing your build. This is true no matter which kit you ultimately decide on, which finish you opt for (Pit Bull Guitars recommend and sell Dingotone Natural Guitar Finish) or your own choice of hardware and other components.

1. Unpacking the Kit

Unpack the kit and check that you have the correct guitar, correct parts and item quantities.



(Important Note: If it's one thing our factory does very well, it is ensuring all the parts are there, down to the very last screw. If you think something is missing, please triple check before contacting us, as, more than likely, it will be there).

2. Prepare a mock build

The easiest way to check you have everything is to prepare a mock build of your new kit. This also tests all the major components, like the neck fitting into the body neck cavity and placing the bridge into its position. Check the pick guard, pickups, and the tuners will fit properly! A good mock build will identify any issues that need to be resolved before you start with the finish.



Picture by Gavin Turner 2013

(Important Note: Don't worry if there is a bit of "wobble room" when the neck is in its pocket. You will need this "wobble room" when it comes to finally attaching the neck. Plus, the scratch plate will cover any small gaps that might be left).

3. Sanding

Our resident Luthier, Dingobass, has a mantra about sanding. He says, ***“sand, sand and sand again. Then, when you think you have sanded enough, sand it some more.”***

If you want a smooth, non-scratched finish on your guitar, you do need to put in the hard yards at the start. You will need to work through a number of “grits”; starting from “rough” to “fine”, to remove all the machine marks and other imperfections and to achieve the desired working surface. This process is covered in detail in our Sanding Video (look under “Guides/Video” on the Home Page).



(Important note: Pit Bull Guitars sells a Sanding Pack, with just the right quantity of all the right grits to get your body and neck sanded perfectly).

4. Painting / Finishing

There are so many ways to finish/paint your guitar, it is impossible to list them all here. If you choose Dingotone Natural Guitar Finish, then the following will assist. Don't forget, you will receive instructions with your Dingotone Body and Neck Finishing kits. Also, make use of the invaluable knowledge on our Community Forum.



Finish the body and neck wood surfaces first and allow the Dingotone to cure and harden properly before finally assembling the guitar. This is a process that, if you are patient, will reap the reward of a sensational finish.

5. Shielding

If you want a guitar that buzzes, then skip this section, otherwise grab one of our Shielding Kits and shield the pickup cavities, switch, volume and tone control cavities as desired. This will help minimise any “hum” or signal interference from your guitar and your surroundings. Again, consult the forum for further instructions and hints on properly shielding your instrument.

Now it's time to wire up those pickups. Wiring diagrams and Videos to assist you can be found under the "Guides" section on our Website. These wiring diagrams represent one way of wiring up your guitar. There are many variants which you can explore on the internet should you wish to 'coil-split', change phase or use Push-Pull Pots or Blend Pots on your guitar.

(Important Note: Some wiring processes may not be achievable until other stages have been completed; such as attaching the neck on a set neck kit).

6. Final Assembly

Install the neck, tuners and bridge. Install the pick guard. Ensure you install grounding wires from the bridge to the pots, between the pots, switch (only if necessary) and the output Jack. Attach your Control knobs.

Note: Whether your neck is a bolt-on or a set-neck, we have full video instructions on both processes.

IMPORTANT! Make sure you read Gavin's excellent thread titled [12th Fret to Bridge/Saddles is longer than 12th Fret to Nut - WTF?](#) in the [FAQ](#) thread.

This will explain in detail how to set the right distance between your nut and your bridge saddles to get to the right intonation for your instrument.

7. Stringing up and intonation

The final step is to put on the strings and set up and adjust string heights, intonation, action, pickup heights and refining the nut. Intonating a guitar is a specialised skill which comes with practise. Don't expect to get it right straight away. Many issues can influence achieving great intonation for your guitar including, curvature of the neck, the height of the nut, the height of the saddles and whether or not your frets are levelled.



Make sure to read the article on the forum titled [Setting your Intonation](#) in the [How to build your Pit Bull Electric Guitar](#) thread.

That's it! We hope you enjoy the experience of building your own guitar, but most importantly we want you to enjoy your guitar!

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